IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A stent delivery catheter assembly, comprising:

a catheter including an elongated catheter shaft having a proximal end and a distal end with an inner inflation lumen extending therein;

an expandable member having a proximal end and a distal end, a length and a desired inflated diameter disposed near the distal end of the elongated catheter shaft which is in fluid communication with the inner inflation lumen, the expandable member being adapted to receive a stent for mounting thereon;

a stent mounted on the expandable member; and

a moveable sheath adapted to cover a portion of the stent during delivery and having an inner lumen with smaller diameter than the desired inflated diameter of the expandable member, the sheath being movable over a portion of the expandable member so that only a portion of the expandable member not covered by the sheath expands to the desired inflated diameter upon inflation to create a working length of the expandable member which is at least as long as the length of the stent mounted on the expandable member.

Please rewrite claim 4 in independent form as follows:

4. (Amended) A stent delivery catheter assembly, comprising:

a catheter including an elongated catheter shaft having a proximal end and a distal end with an inner inflation lumen extending therein;

an expandable member having a proximal end and a distal end, a length and a desired inflated diameter disposed near the distal end of the elongated catheter shaft which is in fluid communication with the inner inflation lumen, the expandable member being adapted to receive a stent for mounting thereon;

a moveable sheath adapted to cover a portion of the stent during delivery and having an inner lumen with smaller diameter than the desired inflated diameter of the expandable member, the sheath being movable over a portion of the expandable member so that only a portion of the expandable member not covered by the sheath expands to a desired inflated diameter upon inflation; and

a stent mounted on the expandable member, wherein:

the moveable sheath has a distal tip which is substantially expandable and expands as the expandable member is expanded.

7. (Twice Amended) A method of delivering a stent within an area of treatment in a body lumen, comprising:

mounting a stent upon an expandable member having a length greater than the length of the stent;

covering the stent and expandable member with a moveable sheath which is disposed in a co-axial arrangement over the stent and expandable member;

advancing the stent and expandable member into the area of treatment in the body vessel;

retracting the sheath to expose the mounted stent on the expandable member, the moveable sheath being placed along the expandable member to create a working length of the expandable member in which only the portion of the expandable member not covered by the sheath will expand when inflated;

inflating the expandable member to create the working length which is at least as long as the stent to expand the stent within the body vessel; and

deflating the expandable member.

REMARKS

This Amendment is made to the final Office Action dated January 14, 2003. Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to better define the invention. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form as the Examiner has indicated that claim 4 is objected to as being depended upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include